

MINUTES

State Board of Education Meeting

Date

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Time

11:30 a.m. Educator Certification Cases Meeting

1:30 p.m. State Board Regular Meeting

Location

Rutledge Conference Center

1429 Senate Street

Columbia, South Carolina

E. Tim Moore, Jr., Esq., Chair

Gerrita Postlewait, PhD, Chair-Elect

Jim Rex, PhD

State Superintendent of Education

Secretary and Administrative Officer to the Board

I. EDUCATOR CERTIFICATION CASES

The State Board of Education (SBE) convened at 11:35 a.m. to hear Educator Certification cases. The following SBE members were in attendance for the meeting: Gerrita Postlewait, Chair-Elect, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Patsy Pye, First Judicial Circuit; Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit; Hampton Hubbard, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Charles McKinney, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Cindy Clark, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Marilyn Norton, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Amelia Herlong, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Fred "Trip" DuBard III, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Phillip Bowers, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; and Dennis Thompson, Jr., Fourteenth Judicial Circuit.

Absent with apologies were Tim Moore, Chair, Second Judicial Circuit; Al Simpson, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Libby Swad, Seventh Judicial Circuit; and Britt Blackwell, O.D., Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff in attendance were Cindy Clark, Minutes Taker; Janice Poda, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Administration; Valerie Harrison, EdD, Deputy Superintendent, Standards and Learning; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Wendy Cartledge, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; and Paul Bozard, Investigator, Office of General Counsel.

There was a motion and a second for the SBE to go into executive session to consider personnel matters. The motion carried.

**SBE Chair-Elect Postlewait declared the SBE in Executive Session.
Open Session**

Hampton Hubbard moved to deny the initial certification of Vernon Eric Abney. Amelia Herlong seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**SBE Chair-Elect Postlewait declared the SBE in Executive Session.
Open Session**

Phillip Bowers moved to approve the initial certification of Paul Windsor Bonham. Lyn Norton seconded the motion. The motion carried with one opposing vote by Cindy Clark.

A motion was made and seconded that the ratification agenda for the Educator Certification cases that were reviewed at the 9:00 a.m. meeting be approved. The motion carried.

There being no further teacher cases, the SBE recessed at 12:40 p.m. for lunch.

II. WELCOME/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SBE reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Board Chair-Elect Gerrita Postlewait called the meeting to order. Amelia Herlong led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Army JROTC unit from Scott's Branch High School, Clarendon School District One, presented the colors.

The following SBE members were in attendance for the meeting: Gerrita Postlewait, Chair-Elect, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; Patsy Pye, First Judicial Circuit; Bonnie Disney, Third Judicial Circuit; Hampton Hubbard, Fourth Judicial Circuit; Rose Sheheen, Fifth Judicial Circuit; Charles McKinney, Eighth Judicial Circuit; Cindy Clark, Ninth Judicial Circuit; Marilyn Norton, Tenth Judicial Circuit; Amelia Herlong, Eleventh Judicial Circuit; Fred "Trip" DuBard III, Twelfth Judicial Circuit; Phillip Bowers, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit; and Dennis Thompson, Jr., Fourteenth Judicial Circuit.

Absent with apologies were Tim Moore, Chair, Second Judicial Circuit; Al Simpson, Sixth Judicial Circuit; Libby Swad, Seventh Judicial Circuit; and Britt Blackwell, O.D., Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) staff in attendance were Jim Rex, PhD, State Superintendent of Education; Cindy Clark, Minutes Taker; Janice Poda, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Administration; Shelly Bezanson

Kelly, General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Office of General Counsel; Sandy Smith, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Policy and Legislation; Valerie Harrison, EdD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Standards and Learning; Mark Bounds, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Educator Quality and Leadership; Betsy Carpentier, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Innovation and Support; John Cooley, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Finance and Operations; Barbara Drayton, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; Karla Hawkins, Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel; and Teri Siskind, PhD, Deputy Superintendent, Division of Accountability.

III. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

Cindy Clark moved to approve the SBE minutes for September 9, 2009. Phillip Bowers seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 14, 2009

Charles McKinney moved to approve the SBE agenda for October 14, 2009. Amelia Herlong seconded the motion. The motion carried.

V. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS, INCLUDING NEWS MEDIA

Board Chair-Elect Postlewait welcomed all visitors to the SBE meeting and recognized the students from the Odyssey of the Mind program, Crestview Elementary School, Greenville County School District. She also recognized visitors from Sumter School District Two. There was no news media present.

Chair-Elect Postlewait turned the meeting over to Superintendent Jim Rex to present recognitions and his report.

VI. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION REPORT AND RECOGNITIONS

State Superintendent of Education Rex recognized the National Aerospace Teacher of the Year, Bill Austin, Pocalla Springs Elementary School, Sumter School District Two. The National Aerospace Teacher of the Year award recognizes classroom educators for their accomplishments and achievements in building enthusiasm among K-12 students about science, technology, engineering, and math. The winner of this award receives \$3,000 cash. Bonnie Disney is his SBE member.

Dr. Rex also recognized the Odyssey of the Mind winners from Crestview Elementary School, Greenville County School District. Team members

include Taylor Carroll, Joshua Carson, Evan Kramer, Charles Ludlow, Christopher Ludlow, and Ben Teal. Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Phillip Bowers is their SBE member.

Dr. Rex discussed the importance of our public schools' ability to remain competitive in the 21st century. He stated South Carolina is beginning to realize that in order to be competitive, we have to have curriculum, teachers, and the complete school system that allows our students to do so.

Dr. Rex announced South Carolina has, for the first time, reached the national average for a passing grade on the GED exams. Dr. Rex stated much of this improvement is attributed to the tools provided by the SCDE to help students to do well on the exams. Some of these tools include GED professional training, the GED Academy, regional training centers, the Family Literacy Program, and the Even Start Program. Dr. Rex said David Stout and his staff deserve a lot of credit for the improvements in our passing-grade rate.

Dr. Rex gave an update concerning the "Race to the Top" proposals that Betsy Carpentier and other SCDE staff are working on; school district personnel; Dr. Gerrita Postlewait, in an advisor role; and Dr. Joanne Anderson, Executive Director, EOC. South Carolina is one of 48 states that is working on Common Core Standards, and it's possible that standards may be adopted as early as the beginning of next year.

Dr. Rex reported he is proud of the progress being made in spite of huge budget cuts and teachers being asked to do more with less.

Chair-Elect Postlewait declared a ten-minute break, and the Board reconvened at 2:10 p.m.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were two people present for public comment speaking on special education needs. They were Ms. Janet Frazier, parent, and Ms. Sandra Blomfield, grandparent.

VIII. STATE BOARD COMMITTEE ITEMS

EP EDUCATION PROFESSIONS

Committee Report—Patsy Pye, Chair

Chair Pye reported the Education Professions Committee did not meet.

IF INNOVATION AND FINANCE

Committee Report—Phillip Bowers, Chair

Phillip Bowers, Chair, reported that the Innovation and Finance Committee met Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., in Rutledge Room 1105. Mr. Bowers provided the Board with an overview of the committee meeting and stated there was one item for approval, as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Establishment of a Fee for the Reinstatement of an Educator's Certificate after Suspension (First Reading)—**
Shelly Bezanson Kelly, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel

Chair Bowers summarized the information concerning the establishment of a fee for the reinstatement of an educator's certificate after suspension. Mr. Bowers moved that the SBE adopt the same \$95 fee charged for initial certification for the reinstatement of a certificate to become effective February 1, 2010. Dennis Thompson seconded the motion.

Chair-Elect Postlewait asked if there was any discussion. Charles McKinney asked how the committee arrived at the \$95 fee. Mr. Bowers asked Shelly Kelly to explain. Mrs. Kelly stated that the SBE and the SCDE are limited in the type of revenue that can be generated. Proviso 1.11 allows the SCDE to charge certification fees. The committee members recommended to keep the fee for reinstatement the same as the current initial certification fee. There is a possibility, in the future, the SBE and SCDE can ask for a legislative change to allow fines. The SCDE can also evaluate the fee structure to determine the actual cost to do the work.

Mrs. Herlong asked where the SCDE and SBE stand on extending the time of suspension of certificates. Mrs. Kelly stated the SBE has the authority to extend suspension for any length of time deemed appropriate.

Chair-Elect Postlewait asked if there was any further discussion of the motion. There being none, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

PL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE

Committee Report—Tim Moore, Chair

Chair-Elect Postlewait reported on behalf of Tim Moore, Chair, who was absent. She reported the Policy and Legislative Committee met Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at 10:35 a.m., in the Rutledge Conference Center. Dr. Postlewait provided the Board with an overview of the committee meeting and stated there was one item presented for approval and two items presented for information, as follows:

FOR APPROVAL

- 01. Request for Approval of Recommendations for Winners of the 2009 State Board of Education (SBE) Volunteer Awards**—Peggy Hogan, Education Associate, Office of Youth Services, Division of Innovation and Support

Chair-Elect Postlewait summarized the SCDE request that the SBE approve the 2009 State Board of Education Volunteer Award Winners and moved, on behalf of the Committee, that the request be approved. Cindy Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FOR INFORMATION

- 02. Discussion of State Board of Education Regulation 43-162 for Possible Repeal**

Dr. Postlewait reported that the Committee decided not to make a change on this regulation, and responded to a question about whether a school district is prohibited from having someone be paid more than the superintendent. Dr. Postlewait stated that the school board can ask for a waiver of the regulation.

- 03. Status Report from the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) about Act 282**

SLA STANDARDS, LEARNING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Committee Report—Cindy Clark, Chair

Cindy Clark, Chair, reported that the Standards, Learning, and Accountability Committee met Wednesday, October 14, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., in the Rutledge Conference Center. Ms. Clark provided the Board with an overview of the committee meeting and stated there were two items submitted for information. The two items presented for information were as follows:

For Information

01. **Achievement Levels (Performance Standards) for the End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) Biology**—Joe Saunders, Education Associate, Office of Assessment, Division of Accountability
02. **South Carolina Virtual School Program Regulations**—Dee Appleby, Director, Office of eLearning, Division of Standards of Learning

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair-Elect Postlewait reminded everyone that the November SBE Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, because Wednesday, November 11, is Veterans Day. Dr. Postlewait also announced that the SBE retreat is scheduled for January 12, 2010, and the location is still to be determined.

Trip DuBard informed everyone that Palmetto Horizon Foundation will have a conference on November 4, 2009, and invited all to attend. The SC Conference of Local Education Foundations brings together charities and businesses throughout South Carolina dedicated to increasing community support for public schools.

Phillip Bowers congratulated Chair-Elect Postlewait for leading the meeting on short notice today, in Chair Moore's absence.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the SBE adjourned at 2:40 p.m.